

Social Action Research for Struggling Writers

More than other students, struggling writers need to understand the relationships between themselves as writers, what they are being asked to write, and who they're being asked to write for. This presentation explores how student-generated social action research projects can engage students in high-level, critical thinking and writing activities that focus on real products for real audiences. Participants will:

- **experience one classroom's journey into social action research**
- **discuss the basic tenets, and learning potential, of social action research**
- **understand how exposing students to basic rhetoric aides in writing outcomes**
- **critique one product of social action research**
- **explore the challenges and rewards of engaging students in social action research**
- **generate their own ideas for social action research in their schools**

The immediacy and genuineness of social action research encourages even at-risk students to engage in the project by thinking critically, conducting primary research, and crafting writing that will have a real impact on its audience. Understanding the basics of social action research will give teachers exciting new tools to help students think, research, and write at a high level.